

# OUR CHARTER OF FREEDOM

The interesting story of the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence—July 2 or August 2 better entitled to celebration than July 4.

POPULAR history has fastened upon our imagination the scene of the signing of the Declaration of Independence as a graceful and formal function, taking place July 4, 1776, in a large, handsomely furnished chamber in Independence hall, Philadelphia. To give the necessary touch of solemnity to the picture there is the scene of the small boy darting from the door as the last signer sets his autograph to the precious parchment and dashing down the street, calling to his grandfather, to "Ring! Oh, ring for liberty!"

Our ideal proclamation of the charter of American freedom must be shattered in the cause of truth. The Declaration of Independence was signed behind locked doors, and was not generally signed upon the Fourth of July at all. The city was not breathlessly awaiting the event outside, nor did the Liberty bell toll forth on that day the triumphant note of freedom.

The accredited historian of the United States department of state is Gaillard Hunt, Litt. D., LL. D., now chief of the division of manuscripts in the Library of Congress.

"There is really no reason for our celebrating the Fourth of July more than July 2 or August 2," said Doctor Hunt recently to an inquirer. "It was not until the latter date that the document was generally signed."

"The Virginia bill of rights, of which George Mason was also the author, was drawn up and adopted in the last colonial assembly in Virginia prior to the Revolution. The bill of rights is in effect a part of every constitution in the land today. It is beyond doubt that this famous document, of which his elderly friend was author, was largely drawn upon by Thomas Jefferson when he wrote the Declaration of Independence."

"The fundamental principles of government set forth in Mason's bill of rights were the same as those in the English petitions to the king, the acts of the long parliament and magna charta."

"You know, perhaps, that it was another Virginian, Richard Henry Lee, who presented to congress, on June 7, 1776, a set of resolutions containing the words, 'These united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.'"

"It was as a result of the favorable voting upon Lee's resolutions that the well-known committee, composed of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston, was named to draft the document. The committee assigned the task of preparing the instrument to the Virginian. Jefferson was the master political mind and it was by no means chance that he was called upon to write the document which has been termed the best-known paper that has ever come from the pen of an individual."

## Drafting the Declaration.

"Thomas Jefferson was the personification of method," remarked Doctor Hunt, "and immediately upon receiving his commission to write the declaration he retired to the two rooms he rented as a working place at Seventh and Market streets, Philadelphia, and prepared to give his country one of the greatest monuments of human freedom."

"The department of state owns the first draft of the Declaration which Jefferson presented to the committee for its approval. His conferees made a few alterations, which are clearly shown in the text, and Jefferson has written beside each change the name of its author, making the document of inestimable value."

"The fair copy which he made for presentation to congress, and which bears the congressional amendments and alterations, is lost."

"The latter is the formal Declaration of Independence laid before congress on June 28, 1776. It was then read and ordered to lie on the table until July 1. On July 2 a resolution was passed declaring the independence of the United States, although the exact form of the proclamation as prepared by Jefferson was debated upon until July 4, when, with some alterations and amendments, it was signed by John Hancock, president of the congress, and the signature attested by Charles Thomson, secretary of congress."

"July 2 was actually the date of separation of the colonies from the mother country. On July 3 we find John Adams, whom Jefferson called the 'colossus of the colonies,' writing to his wife, Abigail, in the following words:

"Yesterday the greatest question which was ever debated in America was decided, and a greater perhaps never was nor will be decided among men."

## Great Day Was July 2.

"In a second letter, written the same day, he said: 'But the day is past. July 2 is the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.'"

"There is little doubt but that the participants in the event considered July 2 as the true date of independence for the colonies, but popular fancy seized upon the 4th, the date of acceptance of Jefferson's formal and detailed setting-forth as the proper date of celebration."

"John Trumbull's famous painting of the scene, hanging in the rotunda of the capitol, is a poetical piece of work and gives many of the portraits of the signers with faithfulness, but it is somewhat fanciful. No stately hangings draped the windows of that stilling room on July 4, 1776, and the beautiful order in which the men are ranged up for signing the immortal document is also fanciful."

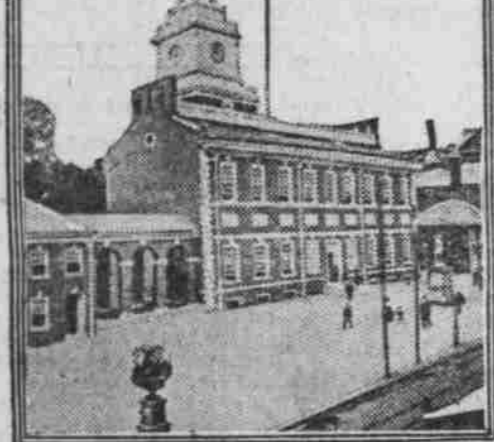
## SIGNERS LIVED TO OLD AGE

Five of Them Had Passed Ninety-Year Mark When Death Claimed Them.

The signers who lived to the greatest age were James Smith of Pennsylvania, the Irish-born signer, who died July 11, 1806, at the age of ninety-six years, and Charles Carroll, who died November 14, 1832, also at the age of ninety-six years. William Miller died in 1820 at the age of

ninety-three, John Adams died in 1826 at the age of ninety-one, and James Lewis, the Welsh-born signer, died in 1803 at the age of ninety-one. Those signers who lived to be eighty years old were Samuel Adams, eighty-one; William Floyd, eighty-seven; Benjamin Franklin, eighty-five; Thomas Jefferson, eighty-three; Thomas McKean, eighty-four; Robert Treat Parson, eighty-four; Matthew Thornton, eighty-nine; William Williams, eighty-one, and George Wythe, eighty.

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson,



Independence Hall

"The president of the congress, John Hancock, with the secretary, Charles Thomson, alone signed the autograph Jefferson document on that date. Immediately afterward it was hurried to the official printer for congress, John Dunlap, to put in type and several copies were made. By next morning the printed copies of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence were in Hancock's hands. When he came to write the proceedings for the Fourth of July, 1776, into the Journal of Congress, Charles Thomson, secretary of the congress, laid a blank space for the Declaration and it is this blank space which now appears watered into the space left for it in the Journal."

"The states, to the Continental army, and it is this paper from which the Declaration of Independence

## THEY BELIEVED IN AMERICA

One hundred and forty years ago some half-hundred men, sent by their communities to confer measures for securing their rights as Englishmen," became convinced that these could not be obtained save by ceasing to be "British subjects" and declaring themselves "American citizens."

Let us look behind the formal phrases of the immortal Declaration to the faith of these men. What was the faith that made vital their appeal for the justice of their cause and the righteousness of their undertaking?

They believed in themselves; in their ability to do right and justice. They believed in the competence of stalwart manhood to govern itself and to provide for the common welfare. They believed they could make better arrangements in government than men had made before them. They believed in themselves, in their people, in America.

Americans of late have done a great deal of fault-finding with America. There is no so much now as a year or two ago. The spectacle across the Atlantic tends to hush it, and to give new point to the saying that "other countries" are what make Americans so proud of their own.

In the light of that spectacle and of our own

day. There were no confining rules of conduct to be observed, no confinement in prisonlike schoolroom when the world outside beckoned so invitingly to the spirit of youth, no compulsion to do as he thought, no fancy prompted. Nor has this envy of the gypsy freedom been confined to the young. There is many a moment in mature life when the thought of drifting hither and yonder in the open air appeals strongly to the man who is chained to office or factory. To have the power to move or to tarry as you will, to have a home

wherever you choose to light a camp-fire, to see the world and all that in it lies, these are not unpleasant thoughts to the person burdened with the daily round of duties.

To the gypsy the things that harass and worry the normal life are but the merest bubbles in the air. To him there is no such thing as the high cost of living. Taxes are as unknown to him as the irregularities of the Greek verb. Not even the income tax can mar his pleasure in life. In the gypsy lexicon there is no such word as land-

## Drafting the Declaration of Independence

was read to the people July 8, when the Liberty bell was rung and the first public celebration was made in honor of the event."

Signed August 2.

"July 19 congress ordered that the Declaration passed the 4th be fairly engrossed. It was very beautifully done on parchment. This is the document which received the signatures of all the members of the Continental congress present in Independence hall, August 2, 1776. By this time, however, the membership had changed slightly, so that the 'signers' were not identical with the body of delegates who had declared for independence a month before. Presumably it was at this time that Hancock, making his great familiar signature, jestingly remarked that John Bull could see it without his spectacles. One or two of the signatures were not actually affixed until a later date than August 2."

"This is the treasured Declaration of Independence now in possession of the department of state," said Doctor Hunt. "It is kept in a hermetically sealed case, which is opened only by special order for very special reasons. It is faded, and it would have been better if this engrossed copy had been made on paper rather than parchment. It is so faded that few of the signatures are recognizable. Nothing can now be done which will permanently benefit it."

"I believe the main cause of the fading was the impression taken in 1823 by order of President Monroe. Two hundred facsimiles were then made to give a copy to each of the then living signers and others. Taking the impression removed the ink."

history let all true Americans today highly resolve on a new birth within their own souls of the faith of these men 140 years ago, of faith in themselves and of faith in America.

## OF GREAT MOMENT IN HISTORY.

The declaration of American independence was of unequalled moment in history. As the result of that fact, the United States of America has risen to a greatness which has changed the face of the world. In a little less than seven score of years it has changed us from a nation of people scattered thinly along the coast of the Atlantic, to a nation of over a hundred millions of people stretching over the whole continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and even into the lands beyond the seas. Moreover, in wealth and in material energy, as in numbers, it now far surpasses the mother country from which it sprang.

## TRIBUTE TO THE DECLARATION.

The historian Buckle was cordial and sweeping in his praise of the Declaration. He said among other things: "That noble Declaration ought to be hung up in the nursery of every king and blazoned on the porch of every royal palace."

If such were the brilliant historian's idea, it was as Professor Tyler remarked, "because the Declaration has become the classic statement of political truths which must at last abolish kings altogether or else teach them to identify their existence with the dignity and happiness of human nature."

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1777: George Ross, 1779: Richard Stockton, 1781, and George Taylor 1781.

Most Widely Read Document.

One hundred and forty years have passed since the Fourth of July, 1776, when the Declaration was signed, but that epochal document is still read and reread with fresh glow. Many a schoolboy has committed it to memory and all intelligent men are familiar with its style and with its statement of grievances against the British king

and no such thing as rent. He is above the conventionalities that hedge us about.

He is free from responsibilities of every type and kind. Panics pass him by, and good times and hard times are to him just the same. But, like the other things of the world that smack of freedom and irresponsibility, the gypsy is fast disappearing—Philadelphia Press.

Divorce lawyers are fond of domestic broils done to a turn.

## Nation Is Now 140 Years Old

As a nation we are now one hundred and forty years young. On July 4, 1776, in old Independence hall, the patriots severed completely their connection with the mother country, and started out to "make their own way."

"Probably no public paper," says Tyler, "ever more perfectly satisfied the immediate purpose for which it was set forth than this Declaration. From one end of the country to the other, as fast as it could be spread among the people, it was greeted in public and private with every demonstration of approval and delight."

In his preamble to his immortal Declaration, Jefferson puts forth a new political gospel; and he lifts the strife of a small band of patriots up to the height and grandeur of a universal warfare, in which all ages and peoples are participants. "We hold this truth to be self-evident—that all men are created equal." This declaration though a self-evident truth to Jefferson, was really a new revelation to Jefferson's age. In this declaration is the Constitution of the United States contained. Here you have the republic in germ.

One might suppose, at first thought, that the anniversary of America's independence should date from the day on which the Banner of Liberty was first unfurled and the first heroic blow against tyranny was struck, or, at least, from the day on which the last and decisive blow was given and national independence was secured. But our Independence day comes from no battle in the field. Lexington, Concord, Funder Hill—not one of these is selected.

On this memorable day in 1776, when it became known that the final action was going to be taken, thousands of citizens, anxious to learn the decision of congress, crowded the streets of Philadelphia. In the temple of the old statehouse was a bell on which by a happy coincidence, was inscribed: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

In the morning when congress assembled the bell-ringer went to his post, having placed his little boy below to announce when the Declaration was finally adopted, that his bell might be the first to peal forth the glad tidings. Long he waited while the deliberations went on. Suddenly, he heard his boy clapping his hands and shouting: "Ring! Ring!"

Grasping the iron tongue, he swung it to and fro, proclaiming the glad

tidings to the waiting thousands. The crowded street caught up the sound. Every steeple re-echoed it, and with cannon peals, bonfires and illumination the patriots that night declared their joy.

The first public celebration of the Declaration of Independence was probably that of July 8, 1776, when Nixon read the statement in the yard of the statehouse in Philadelphia. On the king's arms were taken down in the courtroom.

In 1777, in honor of the first anniversary of the glorious day, every soldier was ordered an extra gill of rum. In 1778, the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, will be celebrated by firing 13 pieces of cannon and a feu de joie to the whole line."

Bunker Hill Monument.

The massive granite obelisk that marks the spot of the hottest engagement of the Revolution, Bunker hill, was erected at a cost of \$100,000, raised by popular subscription. The cornerstone was laid by General La Fayette on his visit to this country in 1825. The monument was completed in July, 1842, and on its dedication Daniel Webster, foremost of American orators, delivered what is generally conceded to be, barring possibly his reply to Mr. Hayne, the greatest speech of his career.

Made His Name Immortal.

If "The American," the founder of the Democratic party and the interpreter of its principles to the American people, had left no state paper or writing save the Declaration of Independence his name would have been immortal. It fired the hearts of men with the highest patriotism and braced soldier and statesman for that long struggle which gave America its freedom from George III's tyranny.

Showed Worth of Americans.

The first time the valor of the American troops was pitted against the British in a pitched battle is certainly worthy of the elaborate commemoration it has received. While in that contest, June 17, 1776, the British under Lord Howe did succeed in dislodging the Continentals under Colonel Prescott and General Putnam, it was not until they had lost 1,054 men as against 466 for the Americans, and the world had been shown that the new nation could fight.

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## The HOME BEAUTIFUL

Flowers and Shrubbery Their Care and Cultivation



Specimen of Polypodium Mandanum.

## GROW FERNS FOR A CHANGE

BY L. M. BENNINGTON.

The ordinary way to propagate this class of plants is by dividing the plants, by the creeping rhizomes, by the little bulbets that form on the fronds and by spores or spores that appear on the underside of the leaves.

The enterprising fern lover will find it most interesting to propagate by spores and per chance produce a really valuable addition to these beautiful and graceful plants.

Procure a seed pan or a box with plenty of drainage holes and cover the bottom with broken crockery.

On this place half-decayed sod and fill with carefully mixed and sifted leaf mold and sand.

Make the surface of the soil perfectly smooth and level and then scatter the spores on it and leave them without any covering, that is of soil. However, they must be inclosed in glass by placing a pane of glass over the seed box or pan.

Water by placing the seed pan in water and keep it there until the water appears on the surface of the soil. Then remove at once, for too much water will destroy the spores. Keep the box in light, but not the sun, remembering that ferns naturally grow in shady places and that we should try to follow nature's lead.

## PLANT SHADE TREES.

When you are planning to plant trees around the house it will be well to give a thought to the Japanese walnut and the Downing mulberry.

The Japanese walnut was first imported from the Orient about twenty years ago and is rapidly growing in popularity wherever it has been tested.

It does not bear much resemblance to our native kind, differing in leaf and manner of growth. It does not start many limbs, and they are thick, stubby and blunt. When bare of leaves its appearance is not very prepossessing or graceful, but when in leaf it will compare in beauty with any of our shade trees, and is sure to attract the admiration of every observer of tree life.

Its leaves are large and tropical in outline and make a dense shade. To all these qualities of a fine shade tree it adds the value of a nut tree. It bears a nut something like our native butternut in shape, but not so large. These nuts are borne in clusters and in great abundance and one of the best features of these trees is the very early age they come into bearing. They begin at three or four years. They are vigorous and hardy growers.

The Downing mulberry, or perhaps one of the several other so-called ever-bearing varieties, makes a good seed choice. There is not a great deal of difference between any of the mulberries, though it is said the Downing is not hardy in the North.

It is a very rapid growing tree, which in itself is a very valuable quality in a shade tree. Its leaves are large and make a fine shade and from every point of view it is a beautiful tree except, perhaps, that some might object to the fact that it bears fruit in abundance.

This quality, however, should make prized all the more by the farmer. For a number of weeks it produces delicious berries that are the delight of the children and of the birds and fowls.

Birds of all kinds may be seen in its branches feasting on the berries and making the yard cheerful with their presence and their song. The catbird and thrush, jay and mocking

bird are all willing not to molest the more valuable cherries as long as they can get all the mulberries they want.

Some NOTES IN SEASON

## SOME NOTES IN SEASON

BY LIMA R. ROSE.

The main planting season is over now, but do not forget to look out for and renew any plants that have not thrived so far.

We miss a part of the satisfaction of growing flowers where we do not profit by last year's experience and allow that knowledge to better our home grounds this year.

Remember most flowers do not succeed in a shady yard. If your garden plot is of that nature do not despair of having flowers, but wisely plant the things that thrive in the shade and take your toll in pansies, ferns and other well-known lovers of shady corners.

Do not work the soil too deeply about plants that root close to the surface; merely break the crust with the claw-rake, or with the fingers.

Go over the garden after a hard rain, loosening the soil and the hose will not be so much in demand.

Keep the straggling geraniums out back and give rich food and plenty of water and they will bloom until frost and be in good shape for wintering in the cellar.

Nearly all plants thrive best if given plenty of breathing space, either by spacing when transplanting or by pruning off the side branches. Many plants give larger and better bloom for this vigorous pruning.

For modern methods of flower culture closely resemble the treatment meted out to fragile human beings.

Thousands of such plants may be seen in the different parks of the big cities whose greenhouses are regular experiment stations.

The advice which some scientific gardeners follow with regard to their flowers is as follows:

The plant bulbs are wrapped in cotton wool. When they begin to flower they chloroform them. They are surrounded with ice one day and steam the next, and occasional electric shocks are administered.

One exhibitor of fuchsias recently told how he had used a scientific gardener attempts to improve on nature and hasten the natural growth of plants.

"A novel system has been adopted by some horticulturists for making fuchsias bloom quickly and luxuriantly."

"When the plant is about to flower it is placed in an inclosed space filled with chloroform vapor. The immediate result is that the plant is retarded or paralyzed in its growth."

"When the fuchsia is placed in the fresh air again it is said to start growing again with redoubled energy, and flowers much quicker than it would do in the ordinary way."

"Another method of stimulating plants is by submitting them to high-frequency electric currents."

"Growing flowers nowadays is even more difficult than raising up babies, that is, if one wants to produce the finest possible blossoms."



Plant Shade Trees Around the Home and if Public-Spirited Help Plant Them Along the Roads.

## Foolish Believers in Luck.

Shallow men believe in luck, believe in circumstances. It was somebody's name, or he happened to be there at the time, or it was so then, and another day it would have been otherwise. Strong men believe in cause and effect. The man was born to do it, and his father was born to be the father of him and of this deed, and by looking narrowly, you shall see there was no luck in the matter, but it was all a problem in arithmetic, or an experiment in chemistry.—Emerson.

## Important to Education.

The most important part of education is the training of the sense which, besides supplying the faculty of accurate observation, creates the habit of careful reflection and measure.

The boys on the farms, no less than those who are being trained in the trades, acquire extensive development of the senses. The advent of mechanical power and machinery, however, has impaired this development.—President Charles W. Eliot.

## THE TONGUE

By REV. L. W. GOSNELL, Superintendent of Men, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

TEXT—If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.—James 3:2.

Speech is a distinguishing gift of man. Said a witty German: "I will believe that an animal thinks when he tells me so." The world would be a strange place if we could not talk, yet what a world it is because we can talk! The difficulty of controlling speech is pointed out in our text, and those who have been striving longest for perfection appreciate most fully this difficulty. It will be worth while to follow the discussion of the tongue which is found in the succeeding verses of the third chapter of James.

First of all, James speaks of the power of this "little member which boasteth great things" (vv. 3, 4). Like the bit in the horse's mouth which enables us to turn the whole body, or the tiny rudder of the ship, which directs its course through the stormy deep, so the tongue is a great power in the guidance of life. We marvel when we see the multitude swayed by the speech of the preacher or the voice of the singer. We need only to mention Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation proclamation or Luther's Theeses, to be impressed with the power of even written words.

But James goes on to speak of the mischief which may be wrought by the tongue (vv. 5, 6). It is like a little fire kindling a great forest. A venomous tongue hurts not only others, but oneself; James says: "It defileth the whole body," and we may be certain that so long as an evil thought injures the spirit, we cannot escape from our evil words.